THE

DESIRES

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE Kingdom of *Scotland*, that both Houſes of Parliament may ſit in Freedom, for ſetling of Religion, according to the Covenant, that King *Charles* the ſecond, upon juſt ſatisfaction given may be admitted to the Government of theſe Kingdomes.

Together with their Proteſtation againſt their proceedings to the contrary.

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THE DESIRES OF THE COMmissioners of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, &c.

IN the yeare 1642. and afterwards in the year, 1643. When the Popish, Prelaticall, and Malignant party did grow prevalent in this Kingdom, the honourable Houses of Parliament did communicate severall Declarations and Papers to the Kingdom of *Scotland*, thereby to informe their judgements of the state of the difference here, and to gain their assistance, and invite their Forces to come into this Kingdom. In which Declarations, and other Papers, they affirm and declare. "That the Army of the Houses of Parliament was raised for "maintenance of the true Religion, the Kings Person, Honour and "Estate, priviledges of Parliament, Rights and Liberties of Subjects; And for the prevention of the alteration of Religion. That "their Enemies design was, to corrupt and alter Religion throughout the whole Island; And that they begun with *Scotland*, knowing well, that the same face attended both Kingdoms, that they "have only inverted the manner of their proceeding, conceiving it "an easier way to destroy them, if they may first prevaile over the "Parliament and Kingdom of *England*, that whensoever Religion "is subverted or changed in the one Kingdom, it will easily be accomplished in the other, Religion being the band and foundation of the happinesse of both; That what corruptions take root in "*England*, will quickly spread their venome and infection to their "neighbour Church of *Scotland*. They declare the true state of the "quarrell to be Religion; In reformation whereof they are so forward and zealous, as there is nothing expressed in *Scotlands* former or latter Declarations, which they have not seriously endeavoured to effect. They earnestly intreat the Generall Assembly, "to further and expedite the Assistance, desired by both Houses, "from the Kingdom of *Scotland*, upon this ground and motive:

Declarat. and account to all the world. *August.* 1642.

English Commissioners. *August.* 1643.

"That therby they shall do great service to God, and great honour
"may redound to themselves in becomming the instruments of a
"glorious Reformation, not only throughout this Iland, but from
"thence possibly to be spread to other Churches oppressed under
"the Antichristian bondage, and tyranny of the popish and prelati-
"call faction. They commend the prudence and faithfulnes of
Declarat. Septem. 1642 in answer to the Scots Declarat. "the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, in propounding
"those things which may conduce to a more close and firm union
"of the two Churches and Nations of *England* and *Scotland*, in
"preserving and maintaining the truth and purity of the reformed
"Religion, not only against popery, but all Superstitious Sects
"and Innovations whatsoever: And declare, that the Houses of
"Parliament have ever made the Reformation of Church Go-
"vernment and Discipline, their chiefest aime, though they have
"been frequently interrupted, and powerfully opposed in the pro-
"secution and accomplishment of it: And however they continue
still in the storm and conflict, yet they take the peace, liberty, and
preservation which God hath afforded *Scotland*, as a pledge of the
like mercy intended to them in his good time, hoping that God
will perfect their designs and indeavours of a full Reformation in
all things pertaining to Religion. And professe their earnest desires
for unity of Religion in all substantiall parts of doctrine, worship,
and discipline; that both Kingdoms might be more strictly united,
and inioy the advantages of his Maiesties more easie, safe, and com-
fortable Government, the people a more free communion in all ho-
ly exercises and duties of worship. And that there might be a more
constant security of Religion, against the bloody practises of Papists
and deceitfull errors of Sectaries, They Remonstrate: "That it is
"far from their purpose or desire, to let loose the golden reins of
"Discipline and Government of the Church, to leave private per-
"sons, or particular Congregations, to take up what form of divine
"service they please, but doe hold it requisite, that there should be
"throughout the whole Realm, a conformity to that Order which
"the Lawes inioyns, according to the word of God. They protest
in the presence of the All-seeing Deity, "that the services which

"they have been desirous to perform to their Soveraign Lord "and King, and to this Church and State, in providing for the "publick peace and prosperity of his Majestie and all his Realms, "to have been, and still to be, the only end of all their Councels "& Endeavours; wherin they have resolved to continue freed, and "inlarged from all private aimes, personall respects or passions "whatsoever. They oft mention their Protestation, taken by every Member of both Houses, promising in the presence of Almighty God, to defend his Majestie, and disclaim the having any purpose to offer the least violence to his person, which hath, and ever shall be dear unto them. They declare, "that they expect the help and "assistance of *Scotland*, in defence of the cause, which if the Popish "partie prevaile, must needs either involve them in that alteration "of Religion, which will be made here; or ingage them in a war a- "gainst this Kingdom, to defend their own Religion and Liberty. And then professe before the everliving God, the safety of Religion, Laws, and Liberties in this, and all other his Majesties dominions, to be the chiefe end of all their Councels and Resolutions, without any intention or desire, to hurt or injure his Majestie either in his Person, or in his just power, That they rest assured both God and man will abhor and abominate that monstrous and injurious charge laid upon the Representative bodie of this Kingdom, of designing the ruin, not only of his Majesties person, but of Monarchy itself; and appeal to all the world, whether worse words then these can be given them.

Declarat. and Protestation to all the world. 1642.

Declarat. *Novem.* 1642.

These Declarations and solemn Engagements, were communicated to the Kingdom of *Scotland*, before they did joyn in war with the Houses of Parliament: And also both Kingdoms entred into a solemn League and Covenant, for Reformation and defence of Religion: For uniformity in one Confession of Faith, form of Church Government, Directory for worship and Catechising, for extirpation of Popery, Prelacie, Superstition, Heresie, Schisme, profannes and whatsoever shall be found contrary to sound Doctrine, and the power of Godlines. For preservation of the Rights and priviledges of Parliament, and liberties of the Subject: For the honour and

happineſſe of the King and his poſterity; and the peace and ſafety of theſe Kingdoms.

Declarat. of the Houſe of Comons 17. April. 1646.

In the year 1646. After the power and ſtrength of the Enemie was broken, the Houſe of Commons did upon the 17 of *April* publiſh a Declaration (which they likewiſe cauſed to be ſet up and affixe in every pariſh Church) wherein they vindicate themſelves from ſeverall miſconſtructions, and miſ-repreſentations of their proceedings: As that they ſhould have any intentions or deſire, to make uſe of the great ſucceſſe God hath given them, contrary to their former profeſſions, or to exceed or ſwerve from their firſt aimes and principles in the undertaking this war: and to recede from the ſolemn League and Covenant, and Treaties betwixt the Kingdoms, or to prolong theſe uncomfortable troubles, and bleeding diſtractions, in order to alter the fundamentall conſtitution and frame of this Kingdom, and to leave all Government in the Church looſe and unſetled, and themſelves to exerciſe the ſame arbitrary power over the perſons and Eſtates of the Subiects, which the preſent Parliament had thought fit to aboliſh, by taking away the Star Chamber, High Commiſſion, and other arbitrary Courts, and the exorbitant power of the Councel Table. And further they declare, "That their true and reall intentions are, and their endea-"vours ſhall be, to ſettle Religion in the purity there of according "to the Covenant; and to maintain the antient and fundamental con-"ſtitution and Government of this Kingdom, by *King*, *Lords*, and *Commons*.

In *November* 1647. when a Petition was preſented to the Houſe of Commons, ſtileing them the ſupreame Authority of the Nation, together with a printed paper annexed, Intituled the Agreement of the *People*, for a firme and preſent peace, upon grounds of common right, (which agreement, as we have found upon peruſall of both) is the ſame for ſubſtance, with the agreement lately publiſhed) the Houſe of Commons did declare, that the matters contained in thoſe papers, were deſtructive to the being of Parliament, and to the fundamentall Government of the Kingdome; And appointed a letter to be written to the Generall, to examine the

proceeding of that buſineſſe in the Army, and returne an accounte thereof to the Houſe. And when another petition directed to the Supreame Authority of England, the Commons in Parliament aſſembled, was preſented the 23 of the ſame Moneth, they voted that Petition, a ſeditious and contemptuous, avowing, and proſecuting of the former petition and paper annexed, Stiled an Agreement of the people, formerly adjudged to be diſtructive to the being of Parliaments and fundamentall government of the Kingdom, and another letter was appoynted to be ſent to the Generall, to take notice of his proceedings in the execution of a mutinous perſon (who was an abetter of that agreement) at the Randiſvouze neere *Ware*, and to give him thankes for it, and deſire him to proſecute the examinations of that buſineſſe, to the bottome, and to bring ſuch guilty perſons as he ſhall thinke fit, to condigne and exemplary puniſhment, all which declarations, proteſtations, Oathes, Covenants, and ſolemn Ingagements, notwithſtanding we find to our great griefe, wonder and aſtoniſhment, that contrary to the diſcent and proteſtation of the Kingdome of *Scotland*, his Majeſtie is removed out of this life, by a violent death, That Orders are publiſhed in print, Entituled *Acts* of Parliament, prohibiting the proclaiming of the Prince of *Wales*, King of theſe Kingdomes, that the Commons which now ſit at *Weſtminſter*, (after many Members of that Houſe, have been impriſoned, ſecluded by force or neceſſitated to withdraw, becauſe they cannot act as in a free Parliament) have voted away the Kingly office, and the Houſe of Lords, and claime the authority of a Parliament, and under colour thereof, the Power of repealing all Oathes of Allegiance or obedience whatſoever, even without exception of the ſolemn league and Covenant, from which the conſcience cannot be abſolved by all the powers on earth. We ſee likewiſe ſtrong endeavours uſed, and reſolutions taken, to maintaine a Licenſious liberty, and ungodly toleration, in matters of Religion,) As appeareth by a paper lately publiſhed, commonly called an Agreement of the people) againſt which upon the 26th of *January* laſt, wee did preſent a teſtimonie, from the Commiſioners of the General Aſſem-
bly of the Church of *Scotland* approved of by the States of Parlia-

ment of that Kingdome. If the Honourable Houses of the Parliament of England, who made the Declaration and Engagement aforesaid, had been permited to sit and act with freedome, we know there would have beene no such proceedings as we have already seene, nor cause to feare such dangerous evills and strange alterations as are now carried on by will and power. We may confidently say, they would have been more mindfull of their many Declarations, and the Solemn Leagve and Covenant; and more ready to hearken to the advice of their brethren of *Scotland*, and however, no regard hath been had by those who now rule, to what we have formerly said, and so we have small hopes, that any great notice shall be taken of what we shall further say; Yet in pursuance of the instructions we have receved from the Parliament of *Scotland*, we hold it our dutie to desire, that there may be no toleration of Idolatry, *Popery*, *Prelacy*, *Heresie*, *Scisme* or prophannes, that ther be no change of the fundamentall constitution and Government of this Kingdome, by King, Lords and Commons, that there may be nothing done which may wrong King *Charles* the Second, in his succession, as righteous Heire of the Crowne of these Kingdomes. But that by the free Councell of both Houses of Parliament, reformation of, and uniformity in Religion may be setled, according to the Covenant, and particularly, that Presbyteriall Government, the confession of Faith, Directory for worship, and Catichisme, may be established, that the just Right and Tittle of King *Charles* the Second, to the Crowne of these Kingdomes, may be acknowledged and upon just satisfaction given to both Kingdomes, he may be received and admitted to the exercise of his Government. And if notwithstanding all our earnest desires and endeavours to the contrary, the Commons now sitting at *Westminster*, shall proceed otherwise in all or any of the particulars aforesaid, we doe hereby in the name of the Parliament and Kingdome of *Scotland* dissent from the same, and solemnly protest that they may be free before God and Man of all the guiltinesse, evils, confusions, miseries and calamities that may follow thereupon to the distracted Kingdoms,

24. Feb. 1648. *Lothian. Io. Chiesly.*

William Glendonyne.